

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC), APRIL 24, 1959

I am against any increase in the Japanese voluntary textile import quota agreement, and I so informed the President in a letter dated April 15 and signed by Senators Pastore, Cotton and me.

I have been informed, however, by U. S. government officials who negotiated with the Japanese government officials that they do not expect any actual increase in the Japanese shipments to this country as a result of this revised agreement. They say that the tightening of the flexibility clause permitting the Japanese to make adjustments upward or downward in the various categories should make it impossible for the Japanese to get into this country the full amount of their overall quota. Last year when the flexibility factor was 10 per cent the Japanese were able to market only 227 of their 235 million-yard quota. Since the flexibility factor has been reduced to 5 per cent, U. S. officials feel it will be impossible for them to exceed the previous overall quota, or possibly, the actual figure shipped into this country last year.

I was pleased that the United States officials were able to get the agreement pinned down so no upward adjustments can be made by the Japanese for 1959 and 1960. This should provide an element of stability which is vitally needed, although I would prefer to have the overall quota at a lower figure.

Gingham production is important to South Carolina, and I am glad there will be a reduction in imports in this hard hit category of textile goods.